

Draft Menominee River State Recreation Area Management Plan



(Date)

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Parks and Recreation Division

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Parks and Recreation



Intentionally left blank

Approval

The project was jointly directed by:
Deborah Jensen, Management Plan Administrator,
Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation Division,
and
Jeff Prey, State Park Planner,
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Parks and Recreation

Plan Approvals Michigan:

The Michigan plan approval applies to all lands owned and managed by the Michigan DNR. Approval of this plan also acknowledges support of the Wisconsin DNR management proposals.

Chief, Parks & Recreation Division

Date

Natural Resources Deputy

Date

Director, Department of Natural Resources

Date

Approval

INSERT WISCONSIN APPROVAL

Approval

INSERT MSPAC RESOLUTION
&
PLAN APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Acknowledgments

Wisconsin

Natural Resources Board

Terry Hilgenberg, Chair
Gregory Kazmierski, Vice Chair
Julie Anderson, Secretary
William Bruins
Preston D. Cole
Dr. Frederick Prehn
Gary Zimmer

Wisconsin DNR

Cathy Stepp, Secretary
Kurt Thiede, Deputy Secretary
Sanjay Olson, Land Division Administrator
Ben Bergey, Parks and Recreation
Bureau Director

Michigan

NRC, State Parks Advisory Committee

Commissioner Louise Klarr, Chair
Commissioner Tim Nichols, Co-Chair
Commissioner Chris Crumbaugh, Co-Chair
Tom Bailey
Jim Bradley
Julie Clark
Ann Conklin
Mike Foote
Christopher Graham
Jefferson Gray
Jim Hendricks
Robert W. Hoffmeyer
Michael McDonald
Mary Pitcher
Amy Trotter

Michigan DNR

Keith Creagh, Director
William E. Moritz, Ph.D, Natural Resources
Deputy
Ron Olson, Chief,
Parks and Recreation Division

Acknowledgement

The Planning Team thanks the many private citizens, local officials, and organizations who assisted in the creation of this plan by attending meetings and/or submitting written or verbal comments. It is apparent that the public greatly values Menominee River State Recreation Area for its beautiful natural resources and recreational opportunities.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary

Chapter 1 - Introduction and Planning Process

- Plan Purpose
- Core Values & Guiding Resources
- Planning Process Overview
- Public Participation
- Map A - Regional Locator and Public Lands

Chapter 2 - Vision and Goals

- Property Designation and Authority
- Significance Statements
- Property Goals

Chapter 3 - Management, Development and Use of the Property

Piers Gorge Unit

- Michigan
 - Recreation Management
 - Motorized Access Management
 - Natural Resource Management
 - Proposed Project Boundary Modifications
- Wisconsin
 - Recreation Management
 - Motorized Access Management
 - Natural Resource Management
 - Proposed Project Boundary Modifications
- Map B1
 - Piers Gorge Unit Existing and Proposed Recreation Developments
- Map C1
 - Piers Gorge Unit Proposed Land Management Classifications
- Map D1
 - Piers Gorge Unit Proposed Project Boundary Modifications

Quiver Falls Unit

- Michigan
 - Recreation Management
 - Motorized Access Management
 - Natural Resource Management
 - Proposed Project Boundary Modifications
- Wisconsin
 - Recreation Management
 - Motorized Access Management
 - Natural Resource Management
 - Proposed Project Boundary Modifications
- Map B2
 - Quiver Falls Unit Existing and Proposed Recreation Developments
 - Map B2 A North Unit
 - Map B2 B Middle Unit
 - Map B2 C South Unit

- Map C2 - Quiver Falls Unit Proposed Land Management Classifications
- Map D1 - Quiver Falls Unit Proposed Project Boundary Modifications

Pemene Falls Unit

- Michigan - Recreation Management
- Motorized Access Management
- Natural Resource Management
- Proposed Project Boundary Modifications
- Wisconsin - Recreation Management
- Motorized Access Management
- Natural Resource Management
- Proposed Project Boundary Modifications
- Map B1 - Pemene Falls Unit Existing and Proposed Recreation Developments
- Map C1 - Pemene Falls Unit Proposed Land Management Classifications
- Map D1 - Pemene Falls Unit Proposed Project Boundary Modification

Chapter 4 - Public Involvement Process

- Primary Stakeholders
- Methods of Public Contact and Involvement
- Management Planning Publications
- Community Involvement and Public Participation
- Summary and Response to Public Comments

Chapter 5 - Alternatives Considered

- Recreation Management Alternatives
- Land Management Alternatives
- Real Estate and Boundary Modification Alternatives

Chapter 6 - Impacts of the Proposed Plan (Wisconsin)

- Introduction
- Impacts to Natural Resources
- Impacts to Recreational Facilities and Opportunities
- Impacts to Cultural Resources
- Socio-Economic Impacts
- Economic Effects and their Significance
- Fiscal Effects – State Government
- Impacts of Boundary Adjustments
- Cumulative Effects, Risk and Precedent

Chapter 7 - Action Goals (Michigan)

General Action Goals

Piers Gorge Unit

Quiver Falls Unit

Pemene Falls Unit

Appendices

Appendix A – Property Analysis

Land Ownership

Existing Recreation Facilities & Use

Water Resources

Vegetation & Natural Communities

Wildlife Resources

Habitat Needs & Capabilities

Threatened, Endangered & Special Concern Species

Cultural Resources

Structures

Map A1 - Piers Gorge Unit Land Cover Types

Map A2 - Quiver Falls Unit Land Cover Types

Map A3 - Pemene Falls Unit Land Cover Types

Appendix B - Regional Analysis

Appendix C - Zone Descriptions

Appendix D – Allowable Vegetation Practices (Wisconsin)

Appendix E – Planning Team

Appendix F - Public Comments

Executive Summary

The Menominee River State Recreation Area (MRSRA) encompasses 7,652 acres of land in Dickinson and Menominee Counties, Michigan, and Marinette County, Wisconsin. The Recreation Area was established in 2010 with the purpose of protecting the scenic values of the Menominee River and associated natural resources while providing opportunities for public access and recreation. Three management units make up the recreation area: Piers Gorge Unit in the north, Quiver Falls Unit, and Pemene Falls Unit in the south. Combined, these units feature 17 miles of undeveloped river corridor with both rocky gorges and wide open stretches that offer a destination for whitewater rafting and kayaking, as well as hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing.

This Management Plan is a collaborative effort between both the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Michigan DNR. With public ownership on both sides of the river, this joint plan will help create a "one place, one feel" experience for visitors. The plan defines a long-range management strategy that will assist the Michigan Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) and the Wisconsin Bureau of Parks and Recreation (BPR) in meeting their responsibilities to protect and preserve the site's natural and cultural resources and to provide access to land and water based public recreation and education opportunities.

The objective of the management plan is to bring together DNR staff from both states, stakeholders and the public into a process that defines the following for the Recreation Area:

- unique significance
- the future vision (property goals)
- future management, development and use
- management zones to guide management in specific areas

Management, Development and Use of Property

The Menominee River State Recreation Area Management Plan recommends upgrades to a number of recreational facilities while maintaining the "backcountry" experience that many associate with this area.

Piers Gorge Unit (344 existing acres)

Piers Gorge is one of the most scenic and popular natural attractions in the Menominee River corridor. It contains some of the fastest-moving water in Michigan and Wisconsin, offering whitewater recreation opportunities, beautiful scenery, and good wildlife viewing. Recreation at the Piers Gorge Unit plays an important role in regional and local tourism. The limited improvements proposed on both sides of the river are intended to keep the visual character of the waterfalls and surrounding landscape, while enhancing the visitor experience.

In Michigan, recreation management concentrates on providing improved access to the river and to the land overlooking the gorge, and improved site amenities to accommodate day use visitors, while maintaining the scenic beauty of the site. A project boundary adjustment of 2 acres is proposed. Natural resource protection and management is an important aspect of preserving the beauty and ecological balance of the Piers Gorge Unit. Management objectives vary for each zone, depending on the desired future condition, but will generally reflect natural processes and the preservation or management for natural communities.

In Wisconsin, limited improvements are proposed to increase access to the river corridor through a primitive hiking trail, but maintaining the visual character of the waterfalls and surrounding landscape. A boundary adjustment of 257 acres is proposed east and west of the current property. Natural resource management varies for each zone but will generally preserve and perpetuate existing natural community types while allowing or managing for the conversion of aspen or other early successional forest stands to longer-lived community types, such as mixed conifer-hardwood stands.

Quiver Falls Unit (4,942 existing acres)

The Quiver Falls Unit is located some two miles downstream (southeast) of Piers Gorge. The approximately ten miles of largely undeveloped river corridor provides uninterrupted flow from the Sturgeon Dam in the north to the class II-III rapids that make up Quiver Falls. Water-based recreation, such as boating and fishing, are traditionally the primary recreational uses. The area is also used for primitive camping, hunting and scenic viewing. The limited improvements proposed on both sides of the river are intended to bring the existing uses in line with current land use rules and provide additional amenities to enhance the visitor experience, while protecting the wild and scenic qualities of the river corridor. This unit is divided into 3 sub-units: north, middle and south.

Michigan does not own any land in the northern section. The middle section reflects a desire to provide minimal facilities to allow for quiet, low density recreational uses. In the south, a higher level of activity is proposed, with existing trails being evaluated for motorized and non-motorized uses and a proposed rustic campground and river access points. Proposed project boundary modifications would provide a 95 acre net gain in land and would provide land consolidation and ease of management. Proposed natural resource management varies for each of the designated management zones, from limited management in the Primitive Zone to more active management to promote natural community types and desired wildlife species in the Recreation Management – Natural Resources Zone.

Wisconsin has limited state ownership in the north section of the Quiver Falls Unit. An expansion of the project boundary is proposed to incorporate the City of Norway, WI lands located within the State of Wisconsin to allow for additional recreation opportunities and river access. The

continued management of regional snowmobile and ATV trail connections that utilize state lands and township roads and providing river access are primary recreation goals in this area.

The central section of the Quiver Falls Unit includes a large block of Wisconsin state land ownership. A number of recreation and access improvements are recommended to enhance river usage and provide connections to surrounding public lands. A 12 unit rustic campground is proposed to accommodate overnight use.

The southern section of the Wisconsin Quiver Falls Unit has traditionally seen a wider variety of activities and is zoned to allow for a higher level of recreation and visitor interaction. Development of a second day use area and improvements at the Quiver Falls scenic overlook are proposed.

A total project boundary adjustment of approximately 903 acres is proposed to create a more consolidated and easier to manage unit, with defined points of access. Proposed natural resource management varies for each of the designated management zones and for specific areas of the Recreation Area. The Grand Island Complex (271 acres) is proposed for designation as a state natural area

Pemene Falls Unit (2,388 existing acres)

The Pemene Falls Unit is the southern-most unit of the Menominee River State Recreation Area. The scenic Pemene Falls, class III-IV rapids, offer spectacular views. The unit is minimally developed, with parking areas, river access sites, campsites (Wisconsin) and the Pemene Falls overlook area (Michigan). The limited improvements proposed on both sides of the river are intended to bring the existing uses in line with current land use rules and provide additional amenities to enhance the visitor experience, while protecting the wild and scenic qualities of the river corridor.

Specific recreation enhancements proposed in Michigan include improvements to the parking area and overlook at Pemene Falls, development of a 3 mile hiking trail along the river and a portage around the falls. Potential boundary adjustment includes incorporating the Sturgeon Bend Campground into the Recreation Area if desired by Faithorn Township. For natural resource management, staff will work closely with Forest Resources and Wildlife Division staff to ensure consistent management with the adjacent State Forest land for forest health and wildlife.

The Wisconsin Pemene Falls Unit is currently with an approved project boundary from a previous department master plan with that includes minor administrative adjustments. A small number of improvements are recommended to enhance public access and recreation through trail development, river access and improved primitive camping opportunities. Natural resource management varies according to the zone designation from preservation to more active habitat management to represent, restore or perpetuate native plant and animal communities.

Public Involvement Process

Management planning for the Menominee River SRA included a comprehensive plan to involve the public in the process. Various methods were used to inform the public, government entities and stakeholders of the planning process and to promote involvement throughout the development of the management plan. A detailed description of the public involvement process is included in Chapter 4 of this plan.



The Menominee River corridor is the focus of the Recreation Area

Chapter 1

Introduction and Planning Process

The Menominee River State Recreation Area (MRSRA) encompasses 7,652 acres of land in both Michigan and Wisconsin, including a 17 mile stretch of undeveloped river corridor. This Management Plan is a collaborative effort between both the Wisconsin DNR and Michigan DNR. With public ownership on both sides of the river, this joint plan will help create a "one place, one feel" experience. The combined effort gives both states a unified approach to developing a planning and management strategy that protects the resources while addressing recreation and tourism needs and opportunities that can have a positive impact on the local economy. For the public, the river and surrounding lands are the focus, not necessarily who owns the land. A unified approach will provide the benefits of cost effectiveness, efficiency in state government, and quality visitor experience.

The purpose of the acquisition, which was completed in 2011, is highlighted by the following values:

- Protection of the scenic values of the Menominee River and associated natural resources
- To provide opportunities for public recreation
- To build on existing state-owned river frontage

Plan Purpose

The Management Plan for Menominee River State Recreation Area defines a long-range management strategy that will assist the Michigan Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) and the Wisconsin Bureau of Parks and Recreation (BPR) in meeting their responsibilities to protect and preserve the site's natural and cultural resources, and to provide access to land and water based public recreation and educational opportunities.

The Management Plan sets out a framework for protecting park resources while providing for meaningful visitor experiences. The long-range vision and management objectives for the park are derived from applicable legal directives, the purpose of the park, the park's significant natural and cultural resources and its relationship to the local community and region.

The plan establishes 20-year Management Zones that provides specific guidance for natural resource management, recreation opportunities and level of development at MRSRA. Second, the plan provides management objectives that address the desired future condition within the site in terms of recreation management, motorized access management, proposed project boundary modification and natural resource management.

For Wisconsin, the impacts of the proposed plan, including fiscal and staff impacts, are considered. For Michigan, the plan also provides 10-year Action Goals that address specific actions to achieve the desired future condition within each area of the park.

Core Values and Guiding Resources

This management plan is guided by the core values that form the foundation of the Michigan and Wisconsin DNR. Core values are derived from the mission statements of the Department of Natural Resources and the Parks and Recreation Division/ Bureau, as well as priorities set by the Director. Other considerations include specific legal mandates, including not only state law, but also the administrative tools and policies of the Departments.

MDNR Mission Statement

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

MPRD Mission Statement

The Parks & Recreation Division's mission is to acquire, protect, and preserve the natural and cultural features of Michigan's unique resources, and to provide access to land and water based public recreation and educational opportunities.

Five Goals of the MDNR

1. Protect the natural and cultural resources
2. Ensure sustainable recreation use and enjoyment
3. Enable strong and natural resource-based economies
4. Improve and build strong relationships and partnerships
5. Foster effective business practices and good governance

WDNR Mission

To protect and enhance our natural resources:

our air, land and water;
our wildlife, fish and forests
and the ecosystems that sustain all life.

To provide a healthy, sustainable environment and a full range of outdoor opportunities.

To ensure the right of all people to use and enjoy these resources in their work and leisure.

To work with people to understand each other's views and to carry out the public will.

And in this partnership consider the future and generations to follow.

"The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value"

Theodore Roosevelt

MDNR Additional Guiding Resources

In Michigan, there are a number of planning documents that provide recommendations for managing our park and recreation system and that were used as guiding references. These include:

- PRD Strategic Plan (2009-2019)
- Michigan State Parks & Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel Report (2012)
- Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2013-2017)
- Michigan Comprehensive Trail Plan (2013-2018)
- Managed Public Land Strategy (2013)



WDNR Additional Guiding Resources

Wisconsin also has a number of planning documents that provide recommendations for managing the park and recreation system and they were used as guiding references. These include:

- Wisconsin State Park System 2015-2020 Strategic Plan
- Economic Impacts of the Wisconsin State Park System: Connections to Gateway Communities (2013)
- Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2011-2016)
- Managing the Heritage Resources of the Wisconsin State Park System (2010)

Planning Process Overview

The objective of the Management Plan is to bring together DNR staff from both states, stakeholders, and the public into a planning process that defines and clarifies the unique purpose, significance and future vision for Menominee River State Recreation Area. Those attributes are reinforced in the planning and management decisions that impact the park through the implementation of the management objectives for recreation and natural resources.

The process included many public informational meetings and planning workshops that were attended by private citizens, special interest groups, representatives of local governments, and representatives of other government agencies. The management planning process was divided into five phases: site inventory and analysis, development of project vision and goals, presentation of a draft concept, completion of a draft Management Plan document and Environmental Impact Statement, and DNR approval of the Management Plan.

In order for a plan to be effective, it must allow for some degree of flexibility to adapt to changes that cannot be predicted 10-20 years out. The plan will be reviewed by DNR staff every 5 years to ensure it is still meeting its intended purpose.

Public Participation

Understanding the important role of the public in developing this plan, the planning team used a variety of methods to gather feedback and input from park users.

- 1) A public input workshop was held in September 2012 to introduce the joint planning process to stakeholders and members of the public and to solicit initial ideas for future management.
- 2) An online public input survey was developed to gather general information about primary interests in the park: how visitors currently use the park, what are the most significant aspects, and recommendations for preservation and recreation enhancements.
- 3) Draft planning concepts were presented for comment at two public meetings held in June 2014. The draft documents were also available on the project website for a period of 30 days.
- 4) Public input meetings were held in August 2016 to present the full draft plan for review and comment prior to plan approval.

A detailed account of the Public Involvement Process is provided in Chapter 4 of this plan. The comments received are recorded in Appendix F. The planning team considered all of the feedback as part of the planning process and refined the plan as appropriate.

Insert Map A – Regional Locator & Public Lands

Chapter 2

Vision and Goals

Property Designation and Authority

Wisconsin Statutory Authority: The authority to acquire and manage land within Menominee River State Recreation Area is described in Wisconsin State Statutes 23.09, 23.11, 23.14, and 27.01. State Recreation Areas are administered by the Bureau of Parks and Recreation.

Michigan Statutory Authority: The authority to acquire and manage State Recreation Area land in Michigan is described in PA 451 of 1994, specifically Parts 504 and 741. State Recreation Areas are administered by the Parks and Recreation Division of the Department of Natural Resources.

Significance Statements

Significance statements capture the essence of the important aspects of the property to help to establish a unique identity. These statements demonstrate the distinctive features of Menominee River State Recreation Area to our states' natural and cultural heritage, visitor enjoyment and impact on the region. Understanding the park's significance helps managers make decisions that preserve those resources and values necessary to accomplish the park's purpose.

Undeveloped Character:

The land represents over 7,000 areas of undeveloped upland forest and wetlands, offering a remote, natural land experience for park visitors.

Recreation:

The property has a history of providing a diverse range of recreational opportunities, including hunting, fishing, primitive camping and water-based recreation. The site provides rare white water opportunities, attracting both in and out of state visitors.

Wildlife:

The Menominee River corridor offers excellent opportunities for both game and nongame wildlife. Bald Eagles are commonly seen and are known to nest all along the river. The site also hosts osprey, common loons, songbirds, eastern timber wolves and sturgeon.

Historic and Cultural Significance:

The area has a rich history, including Native American tribal use, logging and iron mining, as well as hydroelectric production.

Scenic/Natural Beauty:

The river corridor within the Recreation Area offers seventeen miles of undeveloped shoreline, with spectacular scenery encompassing dramatic rock bluffs and some of the fastest-moving water in Michigan and Wisconsin.

Community Connection:

The site demonstrates a unique partnership between the states of Michigan and Wisconsin. The local communities have a strong connection to the Menominee River Recreation State Area and the visitors it attracts help to support the local economy.

Property Goals

The following goals or desired future condition statements capture the important aspects of the park envisioned 15 to 20 years from now. They describe a vision for the successful use of the land and waters within Menominee River State Recreation Area and form the basis for the development of management objectives for the property.

Improve Access: River and land access provide recreational opportunities while connecting the property to the community.

Essential Recreation: This site provides a rare opportunity to experience exceptional river based recreation along with traditional passive outdoor recreation activities in a natural setting.

Resource Protection and Management: Natural communities are restored and managed sustainably to provide habitat for a diversity of native fish, wildlife and plants.

Education and Interpretation: The Menominee River State Recreation Area offers personal and non-personal interpretive and educational opportunities focusing upon natural and human history.

Scenic Resources: The “river experience” provides solitude and scenic beauty along with the roar of whitewater rapids and waterfalls.

Partnerships and Collaboration: The river corridor provides linkages to the community and surrounding forest lands while fostering productive partnerships.

Chapter 3

Management, Development and Use of the Property

The Menominee River State Recreation Area was established in 2010; however, the Menominee River corridor has a long history of providing recreation opportunities for local residents and visitors in both Michigan and Wisconsin. Under WE Energies ownership, recreation use evolved over time and was generally not formalized. As the profile of the property is elevated to that of a State Recreation Area, a more defined approach is required to ensure public can continue to enjoy the land, while safeguarding the protection of the natural and cultural resources in the river corridor. The Menominee River State Recreation Area Management Plan recommends upgrades to a number of recreational facilities while maintaining the “backcountry” experience that many associate with this area.

An important part of the future management is to designate Management Zones for each area of the park (see Maps C1 – C3). Each zone has defined characteristics and management objectives. Incorporated in the individual zone descriptions is direct guidance as to how to manage the area for natural resources, recreation opportunities and development. In addition, historic and cultural resources, educational opportunities, visitor experience, and management focus, are also considered. Each of the zones used in this Management Plan are described in Appendix C.

For Wisconsin, this management plan presents specific natural resource management strategies for the recreation area. For Michigan, while the management plan addresses some general natural resource goals, a separate Stewardship Plan will be developed to identify targets for conservation and related natural resource goals and management strategies. This plan will be developed by the Michigan PRD Stewardship Unit in consultation with Wildlife, Forestry and other resource divisions.

For planning purposes, the Menominee River State Recreation Area has been divided into three units: Piers Gorge, Quiver Falls and Pemene Falls. The objectives for recreation management, motorized access management, natural resource management and proposed project boundary modification for each unit are described below for both Michigan and Wisconsin. Maps illustrating the Existing and Proposed Recreation Developments, Proposed Land Management Classification, and Proposed Project Boundary Modification follow the description for each unit.

PIERS GORGE UNIT (344 existing property acres)

Piers Gorge is one of the most scenic and popular natural attractions in the Menominee River corridor. It contains some of the fastest-moving water in Michigan and Wisconsin, offering whitewater recreation opportunities, beautiful scenery, and good wildlife viewing. Recreation at the Piers Gorge Unit plays an important role in regional and local tourism. The limited improvements proposed on both sides of the river are intended to keep the visual character of the waterfalls and surrounding landscape, while enhancing the visitor experience.



Pier 3, Piers Gorge

Michigan (145 acres)

The Piers Gorge Unit of the Menominee River State Recreation Area includes 145 acres and has been divided into four Land Management Classification Zones:

- Scenic Resource Management
- Primitive/ Natural Management
- Recreation Management – Backcountry
- Recreation Management – Natural Resources

Recreation Management

The level of recreational development and management focus varies in each zone in accordance with the land management classifications defined in Appendix C. Specific management objectives for the Piers Gorge Unit as a whole are described below.

Designated Trails

An existing trail provides pedestrian access for viewing the gorge. This trail will be designated as a hiking trail and shown on the official State Recreation Area map.

Management Objectives

- Provide 0.4 mile moderate hiking trail from the parking lot to pier #3
- Provide 0.9 mile primitive hiking trail from pier #3 to pier #4
- Provide vista overlooks at piers #2 and #3, in keeping with the scenic values of the site
- Make accessibility improvements for viewing the gorge
- Consider additional primitive foot trail development in the future to form a loop trail

River Access

Management Objectives

- Formalize the existing carry-in/carry-out river access site at pier #4
- Formalize the existing carry-in/carry-out river access site above pier #3 and below pier #2
- Work with rafting companies to allow them to install and maintain a river safety box containing emergency equipment
- Provide boating access site (launch ramp) within the proposed project boundary

Day Use Facilities

Management Objectives

- Improve and expand parking area to accommodate 20 vehicles and bus turn-around
- Provide information station/ site locator
- Provide interpretive signage relating to geology, natural resources and history of the Menominee River and gorge
- Develop a day-use picnic area
- Establish an emergency access route to pier 3 (restricted/ vehicular)

Overnight Facilities

The unit does not currently support overnight accommodations. The City of Norway has expressed an interest in working cooperatively with the Michigan DNR to explore rustic camping opportunities on a 4-acre parcel owned by the City, east of the Piers Gorge site.

**Table 3.1 Summary of Existing and Proposed Recreation Facilities for the
Michigan Piers Gorge Unit**

Facility	Existing	Proposed	Total
Designated Trail Miles			
Moderate hiking trail		0.4	0.4
Primitive hiking trail	1.3 undesignated	0.9 designated	0.9
River Access			
Carry-in/carry-out access	3 informal	3 formalized	3
Motorized river access	0	1	1
Day Use Facilities			
Parking (# vehicles)	12	8 /bus turn-around	20 /bus turn-around
Information Station	0	1	1
Interpretive signage	0	1	1
Picnic area	0	1	1
Contact Station	1	0	1
Vault Toilet	1	0	1

Motorized Access Management

This unit has motorized access to the parking lot via a Township road. Motorized access to the remainder of the property will be restricted due to topographic limitations and sensitive resources. A motorized emergency access (not open to public use) is proposed to address safety concerns. Motorized river access via a launch ramp is proposed as part of the boundary adjustment.

Natural Resource Management

Natural resource protection and management is an important aspect of preserving the beauty and ecological balance of the Piers Gorge Unit. Management objectives vary for each zone, depending on the desired future condition. Vegetation management practices for all zones will be outlined in a Stewardship Plan for the property.

Scenic Resource Management (40 acres)

The *Scenic Resource Management Zone* includes land extending from the edge of the river to the top of the bluff. The primary focus of this zone is to protect, preserve and enhance the scenic viewscapes of the gorge, while providing safe access for park visitors.

The natural resources in this zone may be modified slightly to support visitor use and viewing, but tolerance for natural resource impacts is low. The zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes, or to enhance the viewscales.

Management objectives:

- Protect habitat to the visual horizon from the Menominee River
- Selective, sensitive removal of vegetation to maintain views of the gorge
- Minimize impacts to aesthetics from a river-view perspective
- Minimize impacts due to off-trail use

Primitive/ Natural Management (12 acres)

The *Primitive/ Natural Management Zone* includes a cedar swamp area north of the existing parking lot and access road. Only low impact development or recreation activities will be allowed in this area and will be limited due to the wet nature of the land.

Native species and natural processes take precedence over visitor accommodation. Vegetative management will only be allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes.

Management objectives:

- Control or eliminate invasive species
- Preserve and perpetuate existing natural community types

Recreation Management – Backcountry (76 acres)

Most of the wooded hillside extending from the top of the bluff to the northern park boundary has been zoned *Recreation Management – Backcountry*. The primary focus of this zone is to provide low levels of recreation (non-motorized), while protecting the natural character of the zone.

This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes.

Management objectives:

- Control or eliminate invasive species
- Preserve and perpetuate existing natural community types while allowing or managing for the conversion of aspen to longer-lived community types, such as upland hardwood stands

Recreation Management – Natural Resources (17 acres)

Approximately 17 acres at the east end of the Piers Gorge Unit have been designated as *Recreation Management – Natural Resources*. This includes the existing parking area and other land capable of supporting moderate levels of recreation and development in a natural setting.

Natural resources will be managed or modified to support visitor activities and maintain aesthetically appealing landscape, but are protected to the degree possible and appear natural.

Management objectives:

- Manage vegetation to facilitate recreational use and maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape
- Control or eliminate invasive species
- Preserve and perpetuate existing natural community types

Proposed Project Boundary Modification

A *Project Boundary* is a geographic area in which the DNR has an interest in acquiring property that supports the mission of the DNR on a willing buyer/seller basis. A project boundary adjustment of approximately 2 acres is proposed east of the Piers Gorge Unit and is shown on Map D1. This area was selected because of its ability to provide additional recreational values for the property and the region. Areas within the expanded boundary would be considered for purchase, cooperative agreement, lease or easement.

The primary objectives of the proposed boundary expansion are:

- To protect the Menominee River
- To provide additional public space for recreational uses, including motorized river access, parking and picnicking
- To provide a buffer to adjacent land uses where public access is currently of concern

The Proposed Project Boundary for the Piers Gorge Unit would encompass approximately 147 acres. These proposed boundary changes are summarized in the table below.

**Table 3.2 Project Boundary Acreage Goals for the Michigan Piers Gorge Unit
Menominee River State Recreation Area**

Current Ownership	Proposed Expansion	New Proposed Acquisition Goal
145 acres	2 acres	147 acres

In addition, the City of Norway owns a 4-acre parcel of riverfront property downstream of Piers Gorge, but not contiguous with the existing state ownership. The DNR will explore options to integrate development of this property in line with the management objectives for Piers Gorge.

Wisconsin (177 acres)

The Piers Gorge Unit of the Menominee River State Recreation Area has been divided into four Land Management Classification Zones:

- Scenic Resource Management
- Habitat Management
- Native/ Ecological Community Management
- Recreation Management – Backcountry

Recreation Management

Recreation at the Piers Gorge Unit plays an important role in regional and local tourism. The limited improvements are intended to keep the visual character of the waterfalls and surrounding landscape.

Designated Trails

A limited number of designated trails will be constructed. The phrase "designated trails" refers to trails that are designed, maintained, and limited to specific uses and are shown on the official state recreation area map.

Management Objectives

- Provide and maintain up to 3.5 miles of primitive hiking trails from the parking lot and along the river if all lands are acquired.

An existing primitive trail is present along the river's edge. Modest improvements will be made to enhance sustainability and provide improved access.

Day Use Facilities

Day use facilities will be limited to a small parking lot and locator signage

Management Objectives

- Maintain existing three vehicle gravel parking lot
- Provide locator and management signage

**Table 3.3 Summary of Existing and Proposed Recreation Facilities for the
Wisconsin Piers Gorge Unit**

Facility	Existing	Proposed	Total
Designated Trail Miles			
Primitive hiking trail	0.25	3.25	3.5
Day Use Facilities			
Parking (# vehicles)	2	0	2
Locator and Management Signage	2	0	2

Motorized Access Management

This unit has no designated roads as topographic limitations and sensitive resources are present. A two vehicle parking lot will be maintained for pedestrian access.

Natural Resource Management

There are natural resource management opportunities on the recreation area, including the Piers Gorge Unit, that may be limited elsewhere within the landscape. Management within the different zones would maintain or enhance opportunities for older-aged forest while providing other opportunities for maintaining younger-aged forests and other management activities elsewhere. Active management and succession, natural disturbance, and other ecological processes will change composition, structure, and function in the different management zones.

Habitat Management (31 acres)

This classification is focused around the power line corridor that bisects this unit and proposes a mixture of land cover types.

Management objectives:

- Conifer plantations will be managed using started silviculture rotation until trees have reached potential for old growth appearance, values and characteristics. At that point, manage conifer plantations to provide a more random, natural appearance.
- Afforest open fields with northern hardwood species similar to those growing in the Native/Ecological Community management zone to establish a larger block of forest for area-sensitive species such as forest interior birds.
- Manage aspen and similar stands to provide younger successional stages for species using such habitat.

Native/Ecological Community Management (45 acres)

This classification parallels the river upon the steep slopes and offers a unique opportunity for ecological restoration / preservation.

Management objectives:

- Preserve and perpetuate existing natural community types while allowing or managing for the conversion of aspen or other early successional forest stands to longer-lived community types, such as mixed conifer-hardwood stands.
- Using extended rotations, manage for older-aged forest to:
 - Provide habitat for animals and plants requiring older forests
 - Provide additional buffering for the forest and seeps in the Primitive/Natural Management zone
- Provide High Conservation Value Forest for forest certification.
- Control or eliminate invasive species

Scenic Resources Management (6 acres)

This classification is along the river's edge to protect the scenic and visual characteristics of the riverway.

Management objectives:

- Protect habitat in 200 feet parallel to the ordinary high water mark of the Menominee River or to the visual horizon from the river, whichever is greatest.
- There is no active natural resource management. Unplanned management from catastrophic natural events may be needed and will be consistent with the goals and objectives of the property.
- Minimize impacts to aesthetics from a river-view perspective

Recreation Management – Backcountry (95 acres)

This is the largest management classification within this unit. Limited recreation developments will work in conjunction to preserve and perpetuate existing natural communities.

Management objectives:

- Protect the Menominee River
- Control or eliminate invasive species, especially European marsh thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), in the seeps
- Preserve and perpetuate existing natural community types while allowing or managing for the conversion of aspen or other early successional forest stands to longer-lived community types, such as mixed conifer-hardwood stands.

Proposed Project Boundary Modification

A boundary adjustment of 257 acres is proposed to east and west of the current property unit and is shown on Map D1. This area was selected because of its ability to provide additional ecological and social values for the property and the region. Areas within the expanded boundary would be considered for a range of protection options including purchase, cooperative agreements and conservation easements. The primary objectives of the proposed boundary expansion are:

- To protect the Menominee River
- To increase forest block sizes to better accommodate area-sensitive wildlife species
- To connect state recreation lands to the City of Niagara, WI.
- To provide additional public space for recreational trail uses and hunting
- To provide a buffer to land uses that would diminish habitat, management, or visitor experience

If all lands were purchased within the expanded property boundary, The Piers Gorge Unit would encompass approximately 434 acres. These proposed boundary changes are summarized in the following table.

**Table 3.4 Project Boundary Acreage Goals for the Wisconsin Piers Gorge Unit
Menominee River State Recreation Area**

Current Ownership	Proposed Adjustment	New Proposed Acquisition Goal
177 acres	+ 257 acres	434 acres



River view from Pier Gorge Unit, Wisconsin

Insert Map B-1, C-1 and D-1

QUIVER FALLS UNIT (4,942 existing property acres)

The Quiver Falls Unit is located some two miles downstream (southwest) of Piers Gorge and is named after the scenic falls in the south of the unit. The approximately ten miles of largely undeveloped river corridor provides uninterrupted flow from the Sturgeon Dam in the north to the class II-III rapids. Water-based recreation, such as boating and fishing, are traditionally the primary recreational uses. The area is also used for primitive camping, hunting and scenic viewing. The limited improvements proposed on both sides of the river are intended to bring the existing uses in line with current land use rules and provide additional amenities to enhance the visitor experience, while protecting the wild and scenic qualities of the river corridor.

For ease of mapping, the Quiver Falls Unit is divided into three sections: north, middle and south.

Michigan (2,209 acres)

The Quiver Falls Unit of the Menominee River State Recreation Area includes 2,209 acres and has been divided into four Land Management Classification Zones:

- Scenic Resource Management
- Primitive/ Natural Management
- Recreation Management – Natural Resources
- Recreation Management – Developed

Recreation Management

The level of recreational development and management focus varies in each zone in accordance with the land management classification zones defined in Appendix C. Specific management objectives for each of the sections of the Quiver Falls Unit are described below.

North Section

The State of Michigan does not currently own any land or propose to acquire any land in this section. The City of Norway provides a boating access site on the Menominee River below the Sturgeon Hydro Dam.

Middle Section

Most of this section is zoned Primitive and reflects a desire to provide minimal facilities to allow for quiet, low density recreational use.

Designated Trails

There is an existing network of two tracks and user created trails within this area. The trails will be evaluated for appropriate use and a hiking trail system will be designated, with possible new sections or re-routes to avoid trespass or sensitive areas.

Management Objectives

- Provide 2 to 3 miles of primitive hiking trails from the proposed parking lot off County Road 577
- Resolve access issues where trail is currently on private land

River Access

Management Objectives

- Provide 2 to 4 hike-in/canoe-in river access sites
- Maintain Faithorn Boating Access Site (BAS) and support facilities as a motorized river access
- Provide support for the Menominee Watershed Canoe Trail.

Day Use Facilities

Management Objectives

- Provide gravel parking off County Rd. 577 for 4 vehicles
- Provide site locator and fee collection pipe at parking area/ trailhead
- Establish emergency access routes (restricted/ vehicular)
- Provide visitor service facilities within the proposed project boundary (Recreation Management - Developed Zone)

Overnight Facilities

Management Objectives

- Provide 2 to 4 hike-in/canoe-in primitive campsites

South Section

The southern section of the Michigan Quiver Falls Unit has traditionally seen a wider variety of activities and is zoned to allow for a higher level of recreation activity and visitor interaction.

Designated Trails

There is an existing network of two tracks and user created trails within this area. The trails will be evaluated for appropriate motorized and non-motorized use and a trail system will be designated and shown on the state park maps.

Management Objectives

- Provide 5 to 10 miles of primitive to moderate hiking trails
- Resolve access/trespass issues

River Access

Management Objectives

- Provide carry-in/ carry-out river access at end of 37.25 Lane
- Identify river-access campsites from the river corridor
- Provide 1 to 2 hike-in/canoe-in river access sites
- Provide support for the Menominee Watershed Canoe Trail.

Day Use Facilities

Management Objectives

- Provide trailhead and gravel parking for 4 vehicles off Orchard Rd.
- Provide trailhead and gravel parking for 10 vehicles off Spruce Rd. (Proposed Project Boundary)
- Provide site locator and fee collection at parking areas/ trailheads

Overnight Facilities

Management Objectives

- Provide 4 to 10 site rustic campground at end of 37.25 Lane
- Provide 1 to 2 hike-in/canoe-in primitive campsites
- Evaluate the existing cabin for possible restoration, reuse, or removal, and consider historic interpretation of the site.

Table 3.5 Summary of Existing and Proposed Recreation Facilities for the Michigan Quiver Unit

Facility	Existing	Proposed	Total
Designated Trail Miles			
Hiking trail (primitive/moderate)	0	7-13	7-13
River Access			
Boat Access - Carry-in/carry out	0	3-6	3-6
Boat Access - Ramp	1	0	1
Day Use Facilities			
Parking (# vehicles)	0	18	18
Information station	0	3	3
Vault toilet	0	3	3
Overnight Facilities			
Primitive camping (backcountry sites)	0	3-6	3-6
Rustic campsites	0	4-10	4-10

Motorized Access Management

North Section

N/A

Middle Section

Motorized river access and parking is provided at the Faithorn boating access site (BAS). A small gravel parking area is proposed off County Rd. 577. Motorized access to the remainder of the property will be restricted due to the desired primitive nature of the site. A motorized emergency access (not open to public use) is proposed to address safety concerns.

South Section

Two seasonal county roads, totaling 1.3 miles, currently provides vehicular access to the river. It is proposed that the southern road will be improved as a park road to the proposed campground and carry-in river access. The northern road will be evaluated for ORV access. Additional ORV trails may be provided for motorized access in the Natural Resources Zone in accordance with analysis of the existing trails for appropriate use. No motorized access will be allowed in the Primitive Zone or along the river corridor.

Natural Resource Management

Natural resource protection and management is an important aspect of preserving the beauty, ecological balance and resource-based recreation opportunities of the Quiver Falls Unit. Management objectives vary for each zone, depending on the desired future condition.

Scenic Resource Management (356 acres)

The *Scenic Resource Management Zone* includes land along the Menominee River corridor. The primary focus of this zone is to protect, preserve and enhance the scenic viewscapes, both from the river and from the land.

The natural resources in this zone may be modified slightly to support visitor use and viewing, but tolerance for natural resource impacts is low. The zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes, or to enhance the viewscapes.

Management objectives:

- Protect habitat to the visual horizon from the Menominee River
- Minimize impacts to aesthetics from a river-view perspective
- Maintain riparian corridor for wildlife movement and habitat, including bald eagle and osprey
- Allow natural processes to take their course

Primitive/ Natural Management (768 acres)

The *Primitive/ Natural Management Zone* includes most of the middle section of the Quiver Falls Unit and areas along the river corridor in the south section. Only low impact development or recreation activities will be allowed in this area to protect the natural resources and maintain the quiet, wild character of the land.

Native species and natural processes take precedence over visitor accommodation. Vegetative management will only be allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes.

Management objectives:

- Control or eliminate invasive species
- Preserve and perpetuate existing natural community types, such as bedrock glade, hillside prairie, oak-pine barrens and conifer swamp

Recreation Management – Natural Resources (1,062 acres)

Approximately 193 acres west of County Rd. 577 (proposed for land exchange) and the majority of the south section has been designated as *Recreation Management – Natural Resources*.

Natural resources will be managed or modified to support visitor activities and maintain aesthetically appealing landscape, but are protected to the degree possible and appear natural.

Management objectives:

- Manage vegetation to facilitate recreational use and maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape
- Manage for wildlife, including some Aspen management
- Control or eliminate invasive species
- Preserve and perpetuate existing natural community types



Rich Conifer Swamp is one of the natural communities to be preserved

Recreation Management – Developed (23 acres)

Approximately 23 acres at the south end of the middle section of the Quiver Falls Unit have been designated as *Recreation Management – Developed*. This includes the existing Faithorn BAS site and the proposed property acquisition area south of the BAS.

Natural resources may be actively managed or modified to support visitor activities and maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape. Vegetation management will be allowed to facilitate development.

Management objectives:

- Manage vegetation to facilitate recreational use and maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape
- Control or eliminate invasive species

Proposed Project Boundary Modification

A project boundary adjustment of approximately 95 acres (net gain) is proposed in the Quiver Falls Unit and is shown on Map D2. The Proposed Project Boundary would provide land consolidation for both the DNR and potentially a private forest enterprise, resulting in more efficient management and defined points of access. The proposed modifications would result in an additional 0.75 miles of riverfront for water access and recreational use. The boundary adjustments include land proposed for sale, acquisition or exchange.

The primary objectives of the proposed boundary modification are:

- To protect the Menominee River corridor
- To provide additional river frontage for access and recreational use
- To consolidate the boundary
- To address trespass issues

The Proposed Project Boundary for the Quiver Falls Unit would encompass approximately 2,304 acres. These proposed boundary changes are summarized in the table below.

**Table 3.6 Project Boundary Acreage Goals for the Michigan Quiver Falls Unit
Menominee River State Recreation Area**

Current Ownership	Proposed Acquisition/Exchange*	Proposed Sale/Exchange	New Proposed Ownership
2209 acres	+315 acres	-220 acres	2304 acres

* Includes 5 acre Faithorn BAS currently owned by the DNR and proposed for incorporation within the State Recreation Area.

Wisconsin (2,733 acres)

The Quiver Falls Unit of the Menominee River State Recreation Area includes 2,705 acres and has been divided into five Land Management Classification Zones:

- Scenic Resource Management
- Native / Ecological Community Management
- Habitat Management
- Primitive/ Natural Management
- Recreation Management – Developed

Recreation Management

The level of recreational development and management focus varies in each zone in accordance with the land management classifications defined in Appendix C. Specific management objectives for each of the sections of the Quiver Falls Unit are described below.

North Section

This section of the Quiver Falls Unit includes limited state land ownership. The plan does propose to expand the project boundary of this section to incorporate the City of Norway, MI lands located within the State of Wisconsin. This expansion will allow for additional recreation opportunities and access to the Menominee River.

Designated Trails

There is an existing snowmobile and ATV trail on state lands that connects to larger regional network.

Management Objectives

- Continue to provide for the regional snowmobile and ATV trail connection that utilizes state lands and township roads.
- Provide for other motorized and non-motorized trail connections if other lands become available.

River Access

Currently no formal access points exist within this section, but providing river access is a primary goal of this plan.

Management Objectives

- Provide a non-motorized boat launch with a four vehicle gravel parking lot.
- Support for the Menominee Watershed Canoe Trail.
- If lands become available, provide for shoreline fishing opportunities.

Overnight Facilities

Currently no designated camping exists within this section because of the limited land base.

Management Objectives

- If lands become available, provide two hike-in/canoe-in primitive campsites before the Sturgeon Falls Dam.

Middle Section

This section of the Quiver Falls Unit includes a large block of state land ownership. A number of recreation and access improvements are recommended to enhance river usage.

Designated Routes

A number of designated routes are recommended within this section that will provide connections to surrounding public lands.

Management Objectives

- Provide up to 2.8 miles of a snowmobile / all season ATV route starting at the campground boat access parking lot, as shown on Map B-2B. This route continues north to Hazard Road.
- Provide up to 2.6 miles of snowmobile / all season ATV trail. As shown on Map B-2B, there are two segments of this trail. The first is the western segment that starts just south of the parking lot and continues west to private lands. The second segment starts at Plummer Road and continues north on to private lands and then connects to the Sturgeon Dam Road from the trail on state lands.



Hazard Road ATV Trail

River Access

An existing motorized boat launch exists within this section. Within the last few years improvements have been made to this launch site. This launch site will be retained and two others added.

Management Objectives

- Provide 2 hike-in/boat-in river access sites.
- Provide 1 motorized boat launch with a 10 vehicle parking lot.
- Support for the Menominee Watershed Canoe Trail.

Overnight Facilities

Currently no designated camping exists within this section, but this section can provide for light camping use.

Management Objectives

- Provide a 12 unit rustic campground located near the motorized boat launch. All campsites will be non-electric, and developments will include one vault toilet and a water pump.
- Provide up to 4 rustic campsites along the river
- Provide site location signage and fee collection at parking areas / trailheads.

South Section

The southern section of the Wisconsin Quiver Falls Unit has traditionally seen a wider variety of activities and is zoned to allow for a higher level of recreation activity and visitor interaction.

Designated Trails

There is a limited network of trails within this section. This network provides access to the river and surrounding lands.

Management Objectives

- Provide between 1 to 3 miles of primitive to moderate hiking trails
- Maintain map and location kiosks

River Access

An existing river access site is located near Quiver Falls. This site also allows access to Federal BLM islands located nearby.

Management Objectives

- Maintain the non-motorized (carry-in) river access site at the day use area

Day Use Facilities

An existing day use location exists next to Quiver Falls. This site will be maintained and another site developed

Management Objectives

- Maintain the existing day use site and parking lot next to Quiver Falls
- Improve the existing scenic overlook at Quiver Falls
- Develop a day use site near the river's edge from High Banks Road. This site will include a 12 vehicle parking lot and 12' x 18' open air shelter.
- Provide site location signage and fee collection at parking areas/ trailheads

Table 3.7 Summary of Existing and Proposed Recreation Facilities for the Wisconsin Quiver Unit

Facility	Existing	Proposed	Total
Designated Trail Miles			
Hiking	0	1-3	1-3
All Season ATV / Snowmobile Trail	2.6	0	2.6
All Season ATV / Snowmobile Route	0	2.8	2.8
River Access			
Carry-in/carry-out access	1	1	2
Motorized river access	1	1	2
Day Use Facilities			
Parking (# cars)	10	22	32
Information station	1	1	2
Fee collector	0	3	3
Vault toilet	0	1	1
Overnight Facilities			
Rustic campground	0	1	1
Primitive campsites	0	4	4

Motorized Access Management

North Section

Currently there are no department roads designated within this section. Sturgeon Dam Road, owned by the township does serve as access to the current state ownership. This road is plowed in the winter and open for all seasons. If other lands are acquired, a complete inventory and access plan will be developed that will conform to this master plan

Middle Section

Within this section, multiple motorized access opportunities exist. A number of Township roads provide ingress and egress options to this section. Rattie Road provides access to the southern area, Hazard Road to the middle and Sturgeon Dam road to the North. All of these township roads are plowed in the winter and open for all seasons.

The department will define two road sections open to motorized vehicles. The first is the road that connects Rattie Road to the boat landing. This road is classified as a “moderate road” as defined by WIs Admin Rule NR 44. This road will not be plowed for winter use. The second road will allow for a connection of Rattie Road to Hazard Road. This department road will also allow snowmobile and ATV use as a designated route. The department road will be classified as “seasonal moderate road” as defined by WIs Admin Rule NR 44. This 2.8 mile road will not be plowed for winter use.

South Section

No department owned roads exist in this section. Two Town of Pembine roads exist within this section for access. The first is Pembine Dam Road that leads to the day use area parking lot and river access location. The second is High Banks Road that is a spur off Pembine Dam Road. Both roads are not plowed for winter use. Combined, these roads total 0.6 miles.

Natural Resource Management

Natural resource protection and management is an important aspect of preserving the beauty, ecological balance and resource-based recreation opportunities of the Quiver Falls Unit. Management objectives vary for each zone, depending on the desired future condition. Allowable vegetation management practices for all zones can be found in Appendix D.

Scenic Resource Management (28 acres)

The *Scenic Resource Management Zone* includes land along the Menominee River corridor. The primary focus of this zone is to protect, preserve and enhance the scenic views, both from the river and from the land.

This zone includes a 200 foot wide corridor parallel to the ordinary high water mark of the Menominee River or to the visual horizon from the river, whichever is greatest. The goal is to also protect, maintain and enhance the aesthetic qualities. There is no active management planned for this zone. Unplanned management from responses to catastrophic events such as fire or insect outbreaks may be needed and will be consistent with the goals and objectives of the property. The establishment of the river corridor does not preclude the recreational developments identified in this master plan.

Management objectives:

- Protect habitat to the visual horizon from the Menominee River
- Minimize impacts to aesthetics from a river-view perspective
- Maintain riparian corridor for wildlife movement and habitat, including bald eagle and osprey
- Allow natural processes to take their course

Primitive/ Natural Management (271 acres)

The *Primitive/ Natural Management Zone* includes most of the middle section of the Quiver Falls Unit and areas along the river corridor in the south section. Only low impact development or recreation activities will be allowed in this area to protect the natural resources and maintain the quiet, wild character of the land.

Native species and natural processes take precedence over visitor accommodation. Vegetative management will only be allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes.

The Grand Island Complex harbors qualities and characteristics that meet established criteria for consideration as both a representative ecological reference area and a High Conservation Value Forest. The Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin identifies significant ecological features to be considered in planning at both continental and statewide perspectives.

Management objectives:

- Control or eliminate invasive species
- Preserve and perpetuate existing natural community types, such as bedrock glade, hillside prairie, oak-pine barrens and conifer swamp
- Conversion of aspen stands

Grand Island Complex (Grand and Green Islands) (271 acres):

- Designation as a state natural area
- Passive management other than invasive species control
- As needed, manage to sustain existing bedrock natural community types
- Allow the conversion of aspen stands to mixed hardwood-conifer and other hardwood types

Habitat Management (1,141)

The *Habitat Management Zone* includes lands that are located primarily in the north and middle sections of the unit. This zone can reflect either natural or perspective actions for vegetative or habitat management.

Management objectives:

- Manage as multiple aged stands of aspen.

- Stands with cover types other than aspen found in these areas will be managed to maintain or expand their presence; stands with old growth potential should be managed as such.

Native / Ecological Community Management (1,138 acres)

The *Native / Ecological Management Zone* includes land that are located primarily in the southern sections of the unit. The primary focus of this zone is to represent, restore or perpetuate native plant and animal communities.

Management objectives are targeted to specific locations as described below.

Chapman locations:

- Allow and/or promote the conversion of aspen stands that are converting to northern hardwood, oak, or conifer stands to those types. This will increase diversity locally and regionally, provide habitat/stages that may be lacking on the recreation area and surrounding landscape.
- Develop larger blocks of forest and decrease edge effects for interior forest species.
- Manage both locations as old growth. The southern location has areas identified as having old growth forest potential.

Rattie Road Woods location:

- Allow to develop and/or promote old growth characteristics (managed old growth).
- Embedded aspen stands would be allowed or managed toward conversion to northern hardwood, oak, or mixed hardwood-conifer types.

Kremlin Woods location:

Wetlands

- Passive management other than invasive species control

Uplands

- Allow to develop and/or promote old growth characteristics (managed old growth).
- Embedded aspen stands would be allowed or managed toward conversion to northern hardwood, oak, or mixed hardwood-conifer types.

Grand Island Complex:

Grand and Green islands

- Passive management other than invasive species control
- Allow the conversion of aspen stands to mixed hardwood-conifer and other hardwood types

Uplands between Menominee River north to railroad tracks

- Manage as barrens-woodland complex
- Control or eliminate invasive species

Recreation Management – Developed Recreation (195 acres)

The Recreation Management Zone includes lands that are located primarily in the southern sections of the unit. The primary focus of this zone is to enhance recreation management opportunities. Natural resources may be actively managed or modified to support visitor activities and maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape. Vegetation management will be allowed to facilitate development.

Management objectives:

- Manage vegetation to facilitate recreational use and maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape
- Control or eliminate invasive species

Proposed Project Boundary Modification

A project boundary adjustment of approximately 903 acres is proposed in the Quiver Falls Unit and is shown on Map D-2. The proposed adjustment results in a more consolidated and easier to manage unit, with defined points of access, and would provide legal access to a land-locked parcel. The proposed boundary modifications would result in an additional 2.8 miles of riverfront for water access and recreational use. The lands within these areas would be under two classifications: scenic resource management along the river's edge and habitat management. The boundary adjustments include land proposed for sale, acquisition or exchange.

The primary objectives of the proposed boundary modification are:

- To protect the Menominee River corridor
- To provide additional river frontage for access and recreational use
- To consolidate the boundary

The proposed Project Boundary for the Quiver Falls Unit would encompass approximately 3,636 acres. These proposed boundary changes are summarized in the table below.

**Table 3.8 Project Boundary Acreage Goals for the Wisconsin Quiver Falls Unit
Menominee River State Recreation Area**

Current Ownership	Proposed Adjustment	New Proposed Acquisition Goal
2,733 acres	+903 acres	3,636 acres

Insert Map B-2, B-2A, B-2B, B-2C, C-2 and D-2

PEMENE FALLS UNIT (2,388 existing property acres)

The Pemene Falls Unit is the southern-most unit of the Menominee River Recreation Area, encompassing approximately 4 miles of river corridor terminating just north of County Road Z/374, which bridges the river between Wisconsin and Michigan. The scenic Pemene Falls, class III-IV rapids, offer spectacular views at the south end of the unit. The unit is minimally developed, with parking areas, river access sites, campsites (Wisconsin) and the Pemene Falls overlook area (Michigan). Water-based recreation, such as boating and fishing, are traditionally the primary recreational uses. The area is also used for primitive camping, hunting and scenic viewing. The limited improvements proposed on both sides of the river are intended to bring the existing uses in line with current land use rules and provide additional amenities to enhance the visitor experience, while protecting the wild and scenic qualities of the river corridor.

In Michigan, the MRSRA land abuts State Forest land which offers additional recreation opportunities and wildlife habitat. With a joint boundary between the PRD and FRD managed lands, a close working relationship will be maintained to ensure cooperation of management practices and a positive experience for recreational users.

Michigan (525 acres)

The Pemene Falls Unit of the Menominee River State Recreation Area includes 525 acres transferred from the Forest Resources Division (FRD) to the Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) in 2016. The unit has been divided into four Land Management Classification Zones:

- Scenic Resource Management
- Primitive/ Natural Management
- Recreation Management – Natural Resources
- Recreation Management – Developed

Recreation Management

The level of recreational development and management focus varies in each zone in accordance with the land management classifications defined in Appendix C. Specific management objectives for each of the zones of the Pemene Falls Unit are described below.

Designated Trails

There are some existing two tracks and user-created trails within this area. The trails will be evaluated for appropriate use and a hiking trail system will be designated.

Management Objectives

- Provide 3 miles of primitive hiking trails from Pemene Falls to Faithorn Township's Sturgeon Bend Campground

River Access

Management Objectives

- Incorporate Gerald Welling Memorial Boating Access Site, with motorized launch, skid pier, vault toilet, and parking for 25 vehicles, into the Recreation Area
- Provide portage around Pemene Falls
- Support the Menominee Watershed Canoe Trail

Day Use Facilities

Management Objectives

- Improve gravel parking at Pemene Falls to accommodate 10-15 vehicles
- Provide site locator and fee collection pipe at parking area
- Provide site interpretation at Pemene Falls
- Provide scenic overlook at the falls
- Develop alternate ADA viewing site below the falls
- Provide 1 to 2 gravel hunter access parking lots with up to 4 spaces each

Overnight Facilities

Management Objectives

- Provide 1 to 2 hike-in/canoe-in primitive campsites

Table 3.9 Summary of Existing and Proposed Recreation Facilities for the Michigan Pemene Falls Unit

Facility	Existing	Proposed	Total
Designated Trail Miles			
Hiking trail	0	3 miles	3 miles
River Access			
Portage	0	1	1
Boat access - ramp	2 (1 non-DNR)	0	2
Day Use Facilities			
Parking (# vehicles)	10	10	20
Information station	0	1	1
Interpretive signage	0	1	1
Vault toilet	0	1	1
Overnight Facilities			
Primitive campsites (backcountry sites)	0	2	2
Rustic campsites (Sturgeon Bend, Twp.)	11 (non-DNR)	0	11

Motorized Access Management

Access to the Unit is provided off State W2 Road (paved). An alternative access point may be considered off Lake Drive at the north of the unit. Motorized access within the unit will be restricted to preserve the primitive nature and scenic qualities of the river corridor, except at the Pemene Falls overlook and developed boating access site.

Natural Resource Management

Natural resource protection and management is an important aspect of preserving the beauty, ecological balance and resource-based recreation opportunities of the Pemene Falls Unit. Natural resource management objectives vary for each zone, as described below. PRD will work closely with Forest Resources and Wildlife Division staff to ensure consistent management with the adjacent State Forest land for forest health and wildlife. Acreages shown reflect existing recreation area acreage.

Scenic Resource Management (395 acres)

The *Scenic Resource Management Zone* includes land along the Menominee River corridor. The primary focus of this zone is to protect, preserve and enhance the scenic viewsapes, both from the river and from the land.

The natural resources in this zone may be modified slightly to support visitor use and viewing, but tolerance for natural resource impacts is low. The zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes, or to enhance the viewsapes.

Management objectives:

- Protect habitat to the visual horizon from the Menominee River
- Minimize impacts to aesthetics from a river-view perspective
- Maintain riparian corridor for wildlife movement and habitat, including bald eagle and osprey
- Allow natural processes to take their course
- Manage Pemene Falls area to maintain and enhance the viewsapes

Primitive/ Natural Management (14 acres)

The *Primitive/ Natural Management Zone* incorporates two areas of mature mixed conifer swamp: one in the north of the unit and the other along Kading Creek. A granite bedrock glade community south of the creek is also zoned primitive. Only low impact development or recreation activities will be allowed in this area to protect the natural resources and maintain the quiet, wild character of the land.

Native species and natural processes take precedence over visitor accommodation. Vegetative management will only be allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes.

Management objectives:

- Control or eliminate invasive species
- Preserve and perpetuate existing natural community types, such as bedrock glade and conifer swamp

Recreation Management – Natural Resources (112 acres)

Approximately 112 acres, east of the scenic river corridor has been designated as *Recreation Management – Natural Resources*.

Natural resources will be managed or modified to support visitor activities and maintain aesthetically appealing landscape, but are protected to the degree possible from development activities and appear natural.

Management objectives:

- Manage vegetation to facilitate recreational use and maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape
- Manage for wildlife, including some Aspen management
- Control or eliminate invasive species
- Preserve and perpetuate existing natural community types

Recreation Management – Developed (1.5 acres)

This includes the developed Gerald Welling Memorial BAS site. Faithorn Township's Sturgeon Bend Campground, currently outside of the property boundary, is also zoned Developed Recreation (an additional 14 acres).

Natural resources may be actively managed or modified to support visitor activities and maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape. Vegetation management will be allowed to facilitate development.

Management objectives:

- Manage vegetation to facilitate recreational use and maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape
- Control or eliminate invasive species

Proposed Project Boundary Modification

The land in this Unit was transferred to PRD in 2016. A project boundary adjustment of approximately 14 acres is proposed in the Pemene Falls Unit and is shown on Map D-3. This incorporates the Sturgeon Bend Campground into the Recreation Area, which would allow this facility to be administered as part of the State Recreation Area if desired by Faithorn Township.

The primary objectives of the proposed boundary modification are:

- To protect the Menominee River corridor
- To consolidate ownership and ensure consistent management along the river corridor

The Proposed Project Boundary for the Pemene Falls Unit would encompass approximately 539 acres, as summarized in the table below.

**Table 3.10 Project Boundary Acreage Goals for the Michigan Pemene Falls Unit
Menominee River State Recreation Area**

Current Ownership	Proposed Acquisition/Exchange	Proposed Sale/Exchange	New Proposed Ownership
525 acres	14 acres	0 acres	539 acres



Menominee River below Pemene Falls

Wisconsin (1,863 acres)

The Pemene Falls Unit of the Menominee River State Recreation Area includes 1,400 acres and has been divided into three Land Management Classification Zones:

- Scenic Resource Management
- Native / Ecological Community Management
- Habitat Management

Recreation Management

The level of recreational development and management focus varies in each zone in accordance with the land management classification zones defined in Appendix C. Specific management objectives for each of the sections of the Pemene Falls Unit are described below.

The year 2000 management plan for this unit established a number of recreation developments. A small number of enhancements are recommended to enhance public access.

Designated Trails

Currently two miles of moderate hiking trails exist within this unit. Further designated trails are recommended that will improve recreation access. As shown on Map C-3, the primary additions are along the river's edge.

Management Objectives

- Provide up to 3.2 miles of primitive hiking trails.
- Provide up to 2.9 miles of moderate hiking trails.

River Access

An existing motorized boat launch exists within this unit. This launch site will be retained.

Management Objectives

- Provide one non-motorized boat launch with a 6 vehicle parking lot.
- Support for the Menominee Watershed Canoe Trail.

Overnight Facilities

Currently two designated primitive camping sites exist within this unit. These sites will be retained and improved.

Management Objectives

- Provide 2 camping pods with 3 primitive camp sites.
- Provide site location signage and fee collection at parking areas / trailheads.

Parking

Currently four parking areas exist within this Unit. These parking lots will be retained with modest improvements that may include gravel native surface improvements.

Management Objectives

- Provide site location signage and fee collection at parking areas / trailheads.

Table 3.11 Summary of Existing and Proposed Recreation Facilities for the Wisconsin Pemene Falls Unit

Facility	Existing	Proposed	Total
Designated Trail Miles			
Hiking trail	2	4.1	6.1
River Access			
Motorized river access	1	0	1
Day Use Facilities			
Parking (# vehicles)	24	0	24
Information station	0	4	4
Fee collector	0	4	4
Overnight Facilities			
Primitive camping (backcountry sites)	2	4	6

Motorized Access Management

Five motorized access points with parking lots have been established within this unit. All of these access points connect to public roads via a department primitive road. As shown on Map C-3, a total of 2.23 miles of primitive road connect these parking lots.

Another 0.59 mile department primitive road segment connects to a motorized boat landing within this unit.

All of these roads segments are not plowed in the winter and considered seasonal. In total, 2.82 miles of seasonal primitive department roads exist within this unit.

Natural Resource Management

Natural resource protection and management is an important aspect of preserving the beauty, ecological balance and resource-based recreation opportunities of the Pemene Falls Unit. Management objectives vary for each zone, depending on the desired future condition. Allowable vegetation management practices for all zones can be found in Appendix D.

Scenic Resource Management (706 acres)

The *Scenic Resource Management Zone* includes land along the Menominee River corridor. The primary focus of this zone is to protect, preserve and enhance the scenic views, both from the river and from the land.

This zone includes a 200 foot wide corridor parallel to the ordinary high water mark of the Menominee River or to the visual horizon from the river, whichever is greatest. The goal is to also protect, maintain and enhance the aesthetic qualities. There is no active management planned for this zone. Unplanned management from responses to catastrophic events such as fire or insect outbreaks may be needed and will be consistent with the goals and objectives of the property. The establishment of the river corridor does not preclude the recreational developments identified in this master plan.

Management objectives:

- Protect habitat to the visual horizon from the Menominee River
- Minimize impacts to aesthetics from a river-view perspective
- Maintain riparian corridor for wildlife movement and habitat, including bald eagle and osprey
- Allow natural processes to take their course
- Control or eliminate invasive species

Habitat Management (435 acres)

This zone can reflect either natural or prospective actions for vegetative or habitat management.

Management objectives:

- Manage as multi-aged aspen stands.
- Stands with cover types other than aspen found in these areas will be managed to maintain or expand their presence; stands with old growth potential should be managed as such.
- Control or eliminate invasive species

Native / Ecological Community Management - Pemene Falls Pines (722 acres)

The *Native / Ecological Management Zone* include lands that are located primarily in the southern sections of the unit. The primary focus of this zone is to represent, restore or perpetuate native plant and animal communities.

Management objectives are targeted to specific locations described here:

- Managed old growth pine dominated forest
- Embedded aspen stands would be allowed or pushed toward conversion to mixed hardwood-conifer types.
- Control or eliminate invasive species

Proposed Project Boundary Modification

The current state ownership within this unit is 1863 acres. The current project boundary is recommended to be carried forward with minor administrative adjustments as shown in the table below.

**Table 3.12 Project Boundary Acreage Goals for the Wisconsin Pemene Falls Unit
Menominee River State Recreation Area**

Current Ownership	Proposed Adjustment	New Proposed Acquisition Goal
1,863 acres	273 acres	2,139 acres

Insert Maps B-3, C-3 and D-3

Chapter 4

Public Involvement Process

Management planning for the Menominee River State Recreation Area included a comprehensive plan to involve the public in the process. From the beginning, steps were taken to ensure opportunities for public participation throughout the planning process. The public involvement process is in accordance with Wisconsin Administrative Code, NR 44 - Master Planning for Department Properties and Michigan DNR standards for Management Planning.

Primary Stakeholders

To develop an effective management plan, the Departments listen to many voices. People of varied interests and backgrounds have participated in Menominee River management planning activities. Some of these “stakeholders” in the future of the recreation area include neighboring landowners, conservation organizations, recreation users, civic groups, state and federal agencies, local governments, and members of the local business community.

Methods of Public Contact and Involvement

Various means were used to inform the public of the planning process and to promote involvement throughout the development of the management plan. This included periodically contacting public stakeholders to gather information and provide ways for people to participate.

Communication Methods

- Statewide news releases for both Michigan and Wisconsin
- Direct mailings of public notices, draft documents, and public comment forms
- Public meetings
- Online survey
- Informational presentations to interested groups and organizations
- E-mail correspondence
- Government-to-government consultations
- Tribal Government notifications
- The Menominee River State Recreation Area internet website was a comprehensive resource used to facilitate the public involvement plan. Nearly all documentation produced on the plan was made available on this website.
- Comment forms were posted online for people to electronically submit their contributions, ideas and suggestions during each public comment period.

Topics Posted on the Website

- General information about the Recreation Area
- Links for individuals to be added to the mailing list, or to contact the park planners
- Park Master Planning overview
- Vision Statement and Property Goals
- Property Planning Maps
- Draft Master Plan and Environmental Analysis

Public Comment

Public comments were submitted by interested or affected parties throughout the management planning process. The public's input was received in a variety of formats: written comment forms, online surveys, mail, e-mail, fax, or verbal correspondence. Department staff analyzed and recorded comments for public record. A qualitative summary of comments was prepared following each phase of the master planning process. Each comment summary reviewed key issues, described what was heard collectively, and reported that information back to the public. A record of the comments received at each stage of the planning process is available in Appendix F.

Issue Identification and Consideration

At each major step in the process, the public's input served as a planning tool to help identify planning issues and suggestions. The public's comments, the Property and Regional Analysis, DNR staff technical input, and other considerations guided the management planning team. During this process decisions were made based on:

- The land's resource capability
- The role of the property in its local and regional context
- Applicable federal and state laws, administrative DNR Codes, and DNR design standards
- Policies and missions of the state park and its programs
- Consideration of public input
- The professional expertise of DNR resource managers

A broad range of interests were heard and considered in the development of the management plan. Final decision-making responsibility and authority in Wisconsin rests with the DNR's citizen policy-making Natural Resources Board (NRB). The NRB reviews the Menominee River State Recreation Area Management Plan and makes an approval decision on the plan. The public has a final opportunity to comment at the NRB meeting before the Board renders their decision. In Michigan, review and approval is by the Michigan State Park Advisory Committee (MSPAC), a subcommittee of the Natural Resources Council. The MSPAC makes a recommendation for approval to the DNR Director.

Management Planning Publications

Information on a variety of topics was compiled to support the planning process and was made available to the public. These documents are available in paper copy by order request from the Bureau of Parks and Recreation. Both Michigan and Wisconsin post their final management plans on their respective websites, where they can be readily accessed in the future.

Planning Documents

Working documents were developed with involvement from the public as the management plan's focus narrowed toward completion. Completed documents were made available to the public by request, during public meetings and were posted on the internet.

Community Involvement and Public Participation

The Wisconsin and Michigan Department of Natural Resources, recognizing that the reality of Menominee River State Recreation Area must reflect the people it serves, encouraged citizen input throughout the planning process. Public meetings were announced via the media, direct mail, project website, and postings to the Wisconsin statewide meetings calendar. Opportunity to sign up for mail or e-mail contact lists was incorporated into an internet webpage and in literature that was distributed during the planning process.

Table 4.1 Chronological Summary of Public Involvement

Date	Contacts
2012	
Sept. 6	Public Input Workshop – Norway Public Schools (66 attendees) Introduced the joint planning process to stakeholders and members of the public and to solicit initial ideas for future management.
Sept/Oct	Online Survey (97 responses) To gather general information about primary interests in the park: current use, significant aspects, and recommendations for enhancements.
2013	
July 24	Meeting between Michigan DNR staff and representatives of the rafting community
2014	
May	Tribal Government notification letters mailed, Michigan and Wisconsin
June 11	Public Input Open House – Faithorn Township Hall, Michigan (30)
June 12	Public Input Open House –Brown County Library, Green Bay, Wisconsin (3) Draft planning concepts were presented for comment
June 1 – June 30	Draft planning concepts were available for review and comment on the project website
June 11	Meeting with representatives from Verso to discuss property issues at Piers Gorge
June 12	Meeting between Michigan DNR staff and City of Norway
2016	
	Letter and email announcing availability of management plan documents sent to the stakeholders and mailing list. The draft management plan and associated maps posted to the project webpage.
	News release announcing public meeting was sent to media and posted to public meeting calendar.
	Public open house meeting _____
	Public review and comment period
	Wisconsin NRB Meeting to approve the plan
	Michigan MSPAC meeting to approve the plan and recommend approval by the Director

Insert Summary and Response to Public Comments after public review

Chapter 5

Alternatives and Their Environmental Impacts

A management plan alternative is a grouping of a number of compatible options for resource management, recreational development, and public use of a property owned by the Wisconsin or Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The content of an alternative should be compatible with the property designation, property capabilities, the management plan's vision and goals, and the area's Regional Analysis. The alternatives summarized below are the most recent set of alternatives that were considered as part of the planning effort for the Menominee River State Recreation Area.

Recreation Management Alternatives

Alternative One: Status Quo

There would be no new recreational facilities or development within Menominee River State Recreation Area.

Alternative Two: Preferred Alternative – Low Level of Recreational Development

This alternative was chosen as the preferred option. The Menominee River State Recreation Area already has a low level of recreation development within the current boundary. The added developments proposed in Chapter 3 would provide additional rustic camping and day use activities, such as better access to the Menominee River, expansion of camping options and trail redevelopment. In terms of the range of management approaches, the recreational facility development would be less than many other state park properties but still provide improved or designated access and recreation opportunities to all units of the property.

Land Management Alternatives

Alternative One: Status Quo

Management of the Menominee River State Recreation Area would remain somewhat passive with no changes. This alternative is feasible but not desirable because it would not meet the vegetative management goals or the property. In Michigan, areas of the Pemene Unit have been actively managed as part of the State Forest.

Alternative Two: Preferred Alternative – Active and Passive Land Management

This alternative was chosen as the preferred option. The landscape will be both actively and passively managed for a set of diverse ecosystems including older forests, other forests of various age and size classes. In addition, a scenic management zone has been designated for the river corridor vegetation that will preserve the undeveloped characteristics of the shoreline.

Real Estate and Boundary Modification Alternatives

Alternative One: No Additional Land Acquisition

This alternative would support no land acquisition beyond what is within the existing recreation area boundary. Lands recommended in the management plan for acquisition would not be acquired in Wisconsin. In Michigan, land may still be purchased outside of the project boundary in extenuating circumstances. This would cause the recreation area to not meet the vision and goals of providing additional lands for a variety of recreational pursuits and providing additional protection for the Menominee River and the protection of unique, rare, and endangered habitat and species.

Alternative Two: Preferred Alternative – A Limited Boundary Adjustment of the Menominee River State Recreation Area

This alternative was chosen as the preferred option. Under this alternative, the recreation area boundary would be enlarged to include approximately 601 acres of additional land in Wisconsin and 111 acres of additional in Michigan. In Michigan, the boundary also supports a possible land exchange, which could consolidate ownership for both the DNR and neighboring landowners. Acquisition would provide an opportunity to protect over 3.75 miles of Menominee River shoreline, preserve the visual characteristics of the Piers Gorge waterfalls and provide for more options for recreation use.

As part of this alternative the Wisconsin project boundary and acquisition goal will increase as reflected in the summary table:

Overview of Real Estate Wisconsin Recommendations for the Menominee River State Recreation Area	
Existing Project Boundary	5,477 Acres
Proposed Project Boundary	6,209 Acres
Changes in Project Boundary	732 Acres
Existing Acquisition Goal	5,130 Acres
Proposed Acquisition Goal	6,209 Acres
Changes in Acquisition Goal	1,079 Acres
Percent Complete	93%
Parcel Redesignations	0 Acres
Proposed Land Sale	0 Acres

Chapter 6

Impacts of the Proposed Plan (Wisconsin)

Introduction

This chapter in combination with Chapters 4 and 5 collectively meet the requirements of the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA) and Wis. Chapter NR 150 for this management plan. This analysis discloses the environmental impacts, both positive and negative, of the actions recommended in this management plan to decision-makers and the public. Based on the information presented in this management plan, the proposed actions are anticipated to have many net beneficial environmental effects.

An environmental impact study is not required for park management plans in Michigan. While many of the impacts and benefits identified by this Wisconsin study can be expected to also apply in Michigan, largescale logging is not a proposed activity and the resulting disturbance and economic impacts will not be a factor.

Impacts to Natural Resources

Soils

The probability of significant short-term and long-term impacts to the soil resources is low for the management activities prescribed in this master plan. The more disruptive management activities, such as logging, may affect 100-200 acres/year while those with a lighter impact (e.g., prescribed burns) may affect hundreds to several thousand acres/year.

Soil erosion on these disturbed parcels will be minimized by the use of best management practices (BMPs) to protect water quality. BMPs contain strict standards for road construction, water crossings, skid trails and logging landings. All trails and primitive roads will be monitored for signs of excessive soil erosion caused by management activities or recreational use and actions will be taken to minimize the erosion potential. Soil erosion on newly acquired cropland will eventually be reduced or eliminated as most acres will be converted to permanent cover as described in this plan.

Geological Resources and Landforms

Sand or rock material may be acquired from nearby mineral pits for property management projects.

Air Quality

Potential impacts to air quality would come primarily from prescribed burns conducted in the spring and fall on grasslands, savannas and certain wetlands. Prescribed burns may occur on a

property every year though the area burned will probably be rotated between different burn units. The burn plan contains best management practices and procedures to safely manage the fire and includes measures to minimize nuisance smoke impacts.

Other minor air emissions generated on the properties include: particulates from construction and habitat management activities, and oxide emissions from vehicles and equipment. These emissions will be relatively insignificant and less than the emissions generated from adjacent roadways and other economic activities (e.g., construction and farming) in the area.

Water Resources

Water Quality of Surface Waters and Wetlands – Providing permanent vegetative cover and the use of best management practices (BMPs) when these management activities are conducted will have an overall positive impact on both surface waters and wetlands. No increase in impervious surface area is being proposed. Trail and road construction will avoid changing watercourse direction and flow, volume and velocity. Pervious road and pathway surfaces will be used where impervious surfaces are no longer needed. Runoff from roadways and other impervious surfaces will not drain directly into nearby streams and lakes to minimize water pollution risks. The impacts of stormwater runoff during timber harvesting will be mitigated by implementing the practices described in the “Wisconsin’s Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Water Quality” field manual.

Water Culverts – A number of water culverts are located though out the property. Maintenance, repair, and/or removal of culvert structures will be evaluated and conducted on a case-by-case basis, based on cost-effectiveness, property needs, and benefits to wetlands, water quality and wildlife.

Habitat Management

The management practices described in Chapter 3 will improve the quality and composition of the habitats on these properties. These management practices will maintain and promote a variety of native vegetative cover types in the wetlands and forest communities. The property manager will consult with and seek to coordinate habitat management strategies with partners when the boundaries of respective managed lands abut.

Important vegetation management objectives outlined for this property include:

- Protecting ecologically important community types (e.g., wetlands and northern forests)
- Improving the composition and structure of the forests
- Preserving the health and ecological integrity of the plant and animal communities
- Providing early successional vegetation to promote habitat diversity
- Increasing the acreage of woodlands with mature forest characteristics
- Monitoring and controlling invasive species as practicable

Most of the planned changes to the composition and structure of the habitats, especially the forests, will occur slowly over the next 50 years. These changes will often be directed by natural succession. The most noticeable changes will occur where conifer plantations are harvested and converted to native communities such as grasslands or hardwood forests.

Policies that address the monitoring, inspection and the control of invasive species will be followed. For example, some of the invasive species that will be monitored are spotted knapweed, garlic mustard, Japanese hedge parsley, honeysuckle, buckthorn and purple loosestrife. Management activities may include manual harvesting, use of herbicides or biological agents, fire and natural predators. The primary effect of these actions will be the maintenance of or an increase in the native biotic communities.

Wildlife and Fisheries

The actions in this master plan, if enacted, will have positive impacts on the resident and migratory wildlife and fishery populations for decades to come. The management activities and boundary adjustments will enhance the quality and size of the desired habitats. The management objectives and prescriptions outlined in the Appendices will create, restore and/or maintain the diverse wetland, grassland, shrub, forest and aquatic habitats needed by the resident and migratory wildlife and fishery populations.

Larger habitat blocks will be created that are more favorable for sustaining a wider array of species than the current matrix of smaller blocks. The proposed management activities will be especially beneficial to grassland nesting waterfowl and grassland birds.

The in-stream and riparian zone management will enhance the capacity of cold/cool water streams to support self-sustaining fish populations. Land purchases and management activities that reduce runoff volume, improve runoff quality and help sustain groundwater inputs will help protect the game fisheries.

Endangered, Threatened and Rare Species and Native Communities

Inventory work identified specific native communities and rare species occurrences on this property. The habitat management activities described in the plan are designed to protect and enhance the vegetation needed by both game and non-game species.

The management prescriptions in this plan are expected to yield significant medium to long-term benefits to the endangered, threatened, and rare species and their habitat on these properties. Implementation of the proposed recommendations would promote the continued presence of these species and under-represented ecological communities. These actions are consistent with DNR obligations to protect threatened and endangered species and plant communities.

Impacts to Recreational Facilities and Opportunities

Visual/Scenic Resources

Small changes in the visual qualities and aesthetics will occur over time. The changes will be most noticeable where young forests develop into mature, closed canopy stands. The proposed project boundary adjustments of additional lands will also help protect the visual and auditory quality of the user experiences.

Recreational Use and Nature Enjoyment

The state recreation area is well known for river recreation opportunities, hunting (particularly deer, turkey and bear), trapping, bird watching, ATVing and snowmobiling and hiking opportunities. The proposed habitat management recommendations and boundary adjustments will improve the quality of the habitat and expand the acreage available for these and other outdoor recreation activities. The proposed land management objectives and prescriptions will have medium to long-term positive benefits for all recreation uses.

Most of the land management activities, such as prescribed burns and forest management needed to attain the vegetation management goals, will take place during off-peak recreational seasons thus substantially reducing potential conflicts with recreational users.

Lands acquired with Stewardship funds are normally open for recreational use, but they may be closed to one or more of the typical recreational activities in order to: (a) protect public safety, or (b) protect a unique animal or plant community. NR 52 describes the factors to be addressed and the process to be followed for restricting or prohibiting one or more recreational activities.

Impacts to Cultural Resources

These properties may contain both historic Native American and Euro-American sites. Activities with potential to disturb archaeological sites will only be undertaken after consultation with the DNR Archaeologist. Any sites with cultural or historical value will be managed in accordance with guidance and statutory requirements (see ss. 44.40 and DNR Manual Code 1810.10).

Socio-Economic Impacts

Timber Products

The primary purpose of forest land on state recreation areas is to provide forage and cover for wildlife, provide diverse habitats, protect native communities and add to the aesthetic character of the property. Forest management primarily seeks to achieve recreation, wildlife and native

community objectives with production of forest products a secondary benefit.

Although forest products are not the primary goal of this property, the forest products from these lands help support forest based economic activities and they generate state revenues. Harvesting activities are anticipated to occur over the life of this master plan.

All forests will be managed to maintain or improve the vigor of and reduce the impacts of forest pests and pathogens. Forest cover types will increase under this plan. Aspen will be managed on certain stands to provide young age classes and promote game species such as woodcock. Conifer plantations will be harvested and converted to hardwoods except for those providing roosting sites or with aesthetic value.

Timber harvests are expected to increase in value with anticipated increases in timber size and quality.

Infrastructure and Transportation

Recreational use on these properties is heaviest during the summer and fall. Use is expected to increase over the next 10-20 years, but the impact on local traffic levels and road maintenance is expected to be minimal.

A slight increase in heavy truck traffic may be noted on certain areas of the property when timber sales are being conducted, but the impact of the logging trucks on local roads will be limited by road restrictions and logging activity is anticipated to be relatively infrequent (10-20 year frequency for any given property).

The property will continue to generate minimal solid waste. All debris from illegal dumping will be disposed of or properly recycled. Licensed sanitary waste contractors may be used as needed.

Noise

Noise impacts from the recreation is expected to be minimal for both users and neighbors. Wildlife may be temporarily impacted by these noises, but chronic impacts are not expected. The noises would be generated by recreation, land management, forestry and trail construction and maintenance activities such as chain sawing, skidding logs and timber harvest machinery and construction equipment. The noise will primarily occur during daylight hours and may have some high level, short duration peaks. The noise will often be seasonal in nature and transient (i.e., once the project is completed the noise source will be eliminated).

Recreational activities also generate noise, including the discharge of firearms. The largest change from the existing noise levels would be additional camping that would be contained to the local campground.

Public Safety

The actions in this master plan are anticipated to have a positive effect on public safety. Designated use areas (e.g., roads and parking lots) are inspected to locate and remove hazardous trees. Herbicide, pesticide, prescribed fire and other property management activities will follow agency and label safety procedures.

Land Use

The land uses surrounding the existing properties will be minimally affected by the actions in this master plan. The proposed project boundary expansion totals 601 acres. The lands in these boundaries are river frontage and woods. Any developed acreage on acquired parcels will be split off from the undeveloped portion of the property and retained by the willing seller or resold.

Economic Effects and their Significance

Economic benefits are anticipated to result from the influx of visitors to the Menominee River State Recreation Area. At full development, the anticipated visitation will be approximately 25,000 tourists annually that would increase economic activity at local business establishments. Recent data indicates that, in the northeastern region of Wisconsin, local resident park visitors contribute an average of \$19.12 per day to the economy, while non-local park visitors contribute an average of \$59.94 per day. The projected 25,000 total annual visitation to property creates an estimated economic impact of approximately \$1.3 million per year.

Economic benefits during construction of the park facilities would accrue to building trade members, laborers, and suppliers, some of whom may be local. Competitive bidding procedures would be followed. No estimate of dollar amounts to the local area is available, as the extent of local contractor involvement is not yet known. Some employees working on development would probably live in the vicinity of the park. Those employees would participate in the local economy and spend a significant amount of their income on daily needs as members of the community.

Fiscal Effects – State Government**Estimated Cost of Proposed Developments**

Program budgets for capital development facilities are determined on a biennial basis. Because of the cost of developing facilities for property, funding priorities within the Department's capital budget would necessarily be adjusted to accommodate the proposed development. If the proposed developments were funded without an increase in capital spending authority and/or an increase in the property's operating budget, it would cause other Department developments and operations to be delayed or deferred.

Recommended Phasing for Recreation Facility Development, Improvements and Construction

The property improvement projects described for each of the management zones in the preceding chapters should generally be implemented according to the three phases as indicated in Table 6.1. The rate of development will depend upon the availability of funding and the approval of the proposed improvement projects as part of the Department of Natural Resources Capital Development Process. It is estimated that the total cost of all three phases of the proposed recreation improvements will be approximately \$614,000 (in 2016 dollars). This cost would be distributed over a period of 10-15 years or more.

Table 6.1 Proposed Phasing for Wisconsin Facility Developments and Improvements

New Recreation Facility Developments	Cost Estimate	Phase
Water Access		
Boat Ramp and Launch	\$ 45,000	II
Canoe / Raft Launch's	\$ 15,000	I
Camping		
Primitive Camping - 8 sites	\$ 16,000	III
Rustic Campground - 12 sites	\$170,000	III
Trails, Roads and Parking Lots		
Snowmobile / ATV Trail 2.8 miles	\$ 50,000	I
Primitive Hiking Trail 7.4 miles	\$150,000	I
Primitive Road Improvements 1.5 miles	\$ 30,000	I
Day Use		
Information Stations	\$55,000	II
Fee Collectors	\$ 8,000	II
Parking Lot Upgrades	\$75,000	II
TOTAL	\$614,000	

Note: Development costs are based on 2016 dollar-values and assume full completion of all proposed construction. In actuality, work may be phased over several state capital biennial budget cycles.

Operations Costs

Once fully developed, an additional staff position (FTE) would be required for the maintenance of the camping and day use areas. Also, a seasonal LTE will be required for operations and maintenance. An additional \$45,000 a year in management funds would also be needed.

Revenue Projections

The state park access and camping fees will be the main revenue source for the property. Once fee collection stations are installed, it is estimated that the property revenues will be approximately \$210,000 a year.

Payment in Lieu of Property Taxes

State law requires the DNR make payments in lieu of property taxes (PILT) to ensure the affected town's property base is not adversely affected. PILT payments in 2015 to the local governments for was \$96,620.77.

There are two statutes and several formulas under each statute that dictate influence these payments.

- Wisconsin ss. 70.113 applies to land acquired by the DNR prior to January 1, 1992. Payments under this statute are made directly to the taxation district in which the land is located. Schools, VTAE and counties do not receive any payment under this law.
- Wisconsin ss. 70.114 governs the payment in lieu of property taxes for all lands purchased by the DNR after January 1st, 1992. This law has been amended several times so the specific formula used by the DNR to determine individual payments varies depending on when the property was acquired and how it was acquired.

The Department of Revenue sets land use equalization values for the counties and towns that also affect the amounts received under PILT.

The DNR uses an automated process for collecting information and calculating PILT payments. The process is determined by statute with little room for interpretation or calculation by the DNR. For further details, please refer to Wisconsin State Statutes or to the Department of Natural Resources web site at <http://dnr.wi.gov/> and perform a search for "Payment in Lieu of Taxes".

Impacts of Boundary Adjustments

Estimated Costs of Land Acquisition

As required by state and federal laws, the DNR pays just compensation to willing sellers for fee simple purchases or easements. Just compensation is the estimated fair market value based on appraisal. A seller may choose to make a gift or partial donation of the land as well. This plan recommends 601 acres be considered for fee title acquisition.

Lands purchased for addition to Menominee River State Recreation Area would likely be acquired using Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program funds or a similar bonding fund. The cost

to the state of bonding for land acquisition and project development occurs when the interest or dividends must be paid on the bonds. Several methods of making these payments could be used, the main one being General Program Revenue (GPR).

DNR policy is to purchase land only from willing sellers. The purchase price is set by an appraisal prepared in compliance with state and national guidelines, unless the seller chooses to make a gift or a partial donation of land. This master plan proposes a 601 acre addition of uplands to Menominee River State Recreation Area with a current estimated undeveloped average value of \$850 – \$7,000 per acre.

Individual parcel values vary depending on the individual qualities of the site, as well as whether any improvements or buildings existed on the parcel. If all lands were purchased, the total estimated cost of acquisition at current value would be approximately \$1.2 million. It is unlikely that all tracts within the boundaries would be available for acquisition simultaneously, and some may never be. Expenditures would therefore likely be spread over a considerable span of time.

Impacts to Land Owners within or adjacent to a Project Boundary

The impact may be positive or negative depending on an individual's perceptions of being inside a project boundary, the proposed habitat management objectives, and the types and amount of public usage. Potential impacts include:

- The DNR may offer a fair market value bid to a willing seller within the project boundary thus expanding the pool of potential buyers. Being inside or adjacent to a project boundary does not affect how, when or to whom a landowner may sell their land.
- If a parcel is acquired the habitat management activities will probably change the land use. For example, neighbors may experience fewer impacts associated with cropland such as seasonal tillage and harvesting activities. Instead the management activities associated with grassland or woodland habitats will be more prevalent (e.g., prescribed burns, tree planting or harvesting).
- Recreational usage adjacent to a landowner may change depending on the size of the acquisition parcel and the habitat on the land. Recreation may increase for a variety of hunting and fishing activities as well as for seasonal pursuits (e.g., snowshoeing). However, the change will depend in part on how the land was used and managed by the previous owner.
- It does not change the existing zoning as this is a local government decision.
- It does not limit how you can manage or use your property. Nor does it provide DNR staff, other governmental agencies, or the public access to your property.

Impacts on Energy Consumption

Due to the limited amount of infrastructure development proposed, no significant impacts to energy consumption are expected. Any new facilities will be designed to meet current energy efficiency requirements.

Cumulative Effects, Risk and Precedent

Significance of Cumulative Effects

The proposed actions are anticipated to have positive long-term effects on the quality of the natural environment and recreational users. The habitat changes and the proposed land acquisitions are expected to provide the following benefits:

- More recreational land to meet the needs of a growing population.
- Quality recreational experiences for users through improved access facilities and sustainable wildlife and fisheries populations for harvest and observation.
- Improved habitat for game and non-game species, including endangered, threatened and species of concern species.
- Improving the quality of surface water runoff reaching trout streams and wetlands.
- Better protection of the critical groundwater resources needed to sustain trout streams.
- Increased use of sustainable forestry practices.

These benefits are consistent with the DNR's mission and responsibilities, and the recognized need to provide and protect public lands for future generations.

Significance of Risk

Management of these properties poses a low overall potential for risk to the environment. The management activities will be similar to those used over the last several decades so no precedents are being set and the activities typically have less negative and more positive environmental impact than the surrounding residential and agricultural lands. Only a small percentage of the total land and water will be actively managed (e.g., logged or prescribed burns) in any given year. No new, high-risk actions or actions which involve an irretrievable commitment of resources, or actions that could not be reversed in the future are proposed in the plan.

The presence of motor vehicles and other equipment during construction and logging pose a slight risk of spills or causing erosion. These risks would be mitigated by best management practice requirements and at pre-construction meetings with contractors.

Prescribed fire has been identified as one of the most effective vegetative management tool for grassland management. DNR procedures require prescribed burns have an approved burn plan and adequate fire-fighting equipment and trained personnel present on site. During periods of high fire danger, burning restrictions are put into effect and a complete burning ban may be implemented. Herbicide/pesticide use will strictly follow label instructions to protect the environment and public safety.

The risk of introduction of invasive species increases with public entry and use of the property. Actions will be taken to control infestations as practicable. Off road vehicles can be a vector for

the introduction of invasive species but will be limited to a narrow trail corridor, except where personal mobility devices are allowed for disabled individuals.

Significance of Precedent

Approval of this management plan would not directly influence future decisions on other DNR property master plans. However, this plan or portions of it may serve as reference or guidance material to aid the preparation of master plans for similar properties elsewhere. Implementation of the objectives contained in the master plan would not be precedent-setting, primarily because the proposed habitat management, development activities and recreation actions are not unique and regularly occur on state wildlife, fishery and natural areas lands across Wisconsin.

Add Signature Block for final draft

Chapter 7

Action Goals Plan (Michigan)

The Action Goals proposed for the Menominee River State Recreation Area in Michigan present a plan for the implementation of the recreation and management objectives identified in Chapter 3. The goals identify the desired completion date, the park staff or other entities that will be involved, and the primary person responsible for moving that action forward. The Planning Team has developed 10-Year Action Goals that it believes are necessary to guide management and development within the park in order to achieve the desired user experience. The goals were developed in response to public and stakeholder input and in context with the vision and future condition statements discussed in Chapter 2 of this plan.

Action goals are recommended that address the following categories:

- Natural Resources
- Historic/Cultural Resources
- Recreation Opportunities
- Education/Interpretation Opportunities
- Management Focus
- Development

Management Plans do not guarantee future Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) funding to achieve the actions identified. PRD will seek internal funding, alternative funding sources, partnerships and other potential mechanisms for implementing the desired future conditions defined in this plan. On an annual basis, PRD districts determine priorities for project planning and project capital outlay. Each District's top projects are then evaluated at a state wide level for available funds.

These goals apply either to the whole park or to specific locations within the park, as appropriate and according to the management zone. Refer to the management descriptions in Chapter 3 and the zone descriptions in Appendix C for appropriate activities in each zone. Many of the goals proposed will formalize the existing recreation uses by studying and recommending the optimal locations for river access and trails, in order to provide a balance between the protection of the resources and recreational use.

In addition to the goals that follow, the Planning Team explored the potential for improvements to the Pemene Falls overlook, including the development of an alternative accessible viewing location below the Falls. While this is still a long term goal, it was felt that due to funding realities, that project may not be feasible within the 10 year planning period.

General Action Goals

Many of the 10-Year Action Goals for Menominee River Recreation Area are general in nature and apply within all of the units and across all of the management zones. These often deal with park-wide issues, such as invasive species control, universal access, developing Stewardship, Wildfire and Emergency plans, or marketing the park's many recreational opportunities to a wider audience of potential users.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Natural Resources			
Complete Michigan Forest Inventory (MiFi) cover type mapping for the Recreation Area	3-5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship	Stewardship Ecologist
Develop a Stewardship Plan that identifies conservation targets and priorities for resource management and stewardship	3-5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Forest Resources Wildlife	Stewardship Ecologist
Implement Stewardship Plan for the park, following development of the plan	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager Stewardship
Implement invasive species control, with a strong emphasis on early detection and rapid response.	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Fisheries	Park Manager
Continue to protect exemplary natural communities and legally protected species	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager Stewardship
Maintain and enhance river viewsapes with respect to natural habitat	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager Stewardship
Historic/Cultural Resources			
Complete Phase 1 Archaeological Study focused on river corridor and proposed development areas	3-5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship State Archaeologist	Cultural Resource Analyst State Archaeologist
Review all proposed earthwork activities for potential impact on historic/cultural resources	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner State Archaeologist	Cultural Resource Analyst State Archaeologist
Recreation Opportunities			
Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping/birding	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Wildlife Fisheries	Park Manager

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Evaluate existing trails and access points for appropriate use and establish a trail/ access plan for each Unit	2 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager Regional Planner
Evaluate overnight accommodation opportunities and develop a plan that is sustainable and compliments other opportunities in the area	2 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager Regional Planner
Work with partners to continue to support the Menominee River Canoe Trail by providing appropriate amenities and information to the public	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner Recreation Partners	Park Manager
Education/Interpretation Opportunities			
In coordination with partners, provide comprehensive information to the public, both onsite and remote, on the Recreation Area and the opportunities it offers	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Marketing & Outreach Recreation Partners	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach
Management			
Continue to explore land acquisition/ exchange/ management partnerships within the Proposed Project Boundary to consolidate land and increase access and protection of the Menominee River corridor	Ongoing	Park Manager PRD Land Liaison Regional Planner	PRD Land Liaison
Refine and update Emergency Plan and coordinate with area Emergency Management agencies	Annual	Park Manager	Park Manager
Refine and update Wildfire Plan	Annual	Park Manager Stewardship Forest Resources	Park Manager
Continue to work with Wisconsin DNR to establish and implement a joint management plan for administration of the Recreation Area	Ongoing	Park Manager District Supervisor Wisconsin DNR	Park Manager District Supervisor
Development			
<i>See proposed Development for each Unit</i>			

Piers Gorge Unit Action Goals

The Piers Gorge Unit is the most well-known and heavily visited of the three Menominee River State Recreation Area management units in Michigan. Action Goals will focus on improved accessibility and safety, while maintaining the scenic beauty of the site.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Natural Resources			
Manage vegetation to maintain views of the gorge while protecting aesthetics from the river-view perspective	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager
Recreation Opportunities			
Designate and map the existing trail between the parking lot and Pier #4	1 Year	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager
Evaluate opportunities to create a looped hiking trail within the Unit	1-2 Years	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager
Education/Interpretation Opportunities			
Install information kiosk with map at the parking area	2 Years	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager
Develop and install interpretive signs that educate the public on the geology, natural resources, history and recreation opportunities of the gorge and Menominee River corridor	5 Years	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach
Management			
Partner with rafting companies to install and maintain a river safety emergency box	1 Year	Park Manager Rafting Companies	Rafting Companies
Continue to pursue the development of a boating access site (launch ramp) within the Proposed Project Boundary	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager Regional Planner
Continue to pursue the development of a restricted vehicle emergency access route to Pier #3 through partnership with adjacent landowners	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner Lands Liaison	Park Manager Regional Planner

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Continue to support the development of recreation opportunities on the Village of Norway owned riverfront parcel , that compliment those of the Recreation Area	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager Regional Planner
Development			
Make accessibility improvements to the hiking trail from the parking lot to Pier #3	5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager Regional Planner
Make improvements to the Overlooks at Piers #2 and #3, including accessibility improvements, in keeping with the scenic values of the site	5-10 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager Regional Planner
Formalize the existing carry-in/ carry-out river access sites at Piers #2, 3 and 4	5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager
Improve and expand the parking area to accommodate a bus turn-around and 20 vehicles	5 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Regional Planner
Develop a day-use picnic area in the Unit	5 -10 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager

Quiver Falls Unit Action Goals The Quiver Falls Unit includes nine miles of undeveloped Menominee River corridor. The limited improvements proposed are intended to bring the existing uses in line with current land use rules and provide additional amenities to enhance the visitor experience, while protecting the wild and scenic qualities of the river corridor.			
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Recreation Opportunities			
Evaluate the existing trail system and designate trails appropriate to the zone designation	2-5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Identify locations and establish 2-4 hike-in/ canoe-in river access sites and/or primitive campsites	5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager
Education/Interpretation Opportunities			
Install information kiosk and maps at parking areas/ trail heads	2-5 Years	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager
Management			
Address trespass issues through land acquisition or use agreements with adjacent landowners	1-3 Years	Park Manager PRD Land Liaison	Park Manager PRD Land Liaison
Identify and establish appropriate emergency access routes	2 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager
Work with Menominee County Road Commission to maintain seasonal roads in the southern section for vehicular access.	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner PRD Land Liaison	Park Manager PRD Land Liaison
Evaluate the existing cabin structure for possible restoration or reuse and consider historic interpretation of the site	2-3 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager Regional Planner
Development			
Develop gravel parking lots to service the unit, with fee collection pipe	2-5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager
Formalize carry-in/ carry-out river access at the end of 37.25 Lane	5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager
Develop a 4-10 site rustic campground at the end of 37.25 Lane	5-10 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Regional Planner

Pemene Falls Unit Action Goals

This unit features the scenic Pemene Falls. The area is minimally developed and the proposed Action Goals focus on improving accessibility and providing additional amenities to enhance the visitor experience, while protecting the wild and scenic qualities of the river corridor.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Historic/Cultural Resources			
Document resources in the vicinity of the falls for possible interpretation and education	2-3 Years	Park Manager Stewardship State Archaeologist	Cultural Resource Analyst
Recreation Opportunities			
Develop a hiking trail from Pemene Falls to Faithorn Township's Sturgeon Bend Campground	5-10 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager
Identify locations and establish hike-in/ canoe-in river access sites and/or primitive campsites	5-10 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager
Evaluate opportunities to provide a safe portage around Pemene Falls	5-10 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Regional Planner
Education/Interpretation Opportunities			
Develop and install interpretive signs at Pemene Falls	3-5 Years	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager
Management			
Incorporate Gerald R. Welling Memorial boating access site into the Recreation Area boundary	1 Year	Park Manager PRD Land Liaison	Park Manager
Coordinate with Faithorn Township on the management of the Sturgeon Bend Campground	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager
Maintain a close working relationship with Forest Resources Division and Wildlife Division to ensure a coordinated approach to recreation opportunities and resource management	Ongoing	Park Manager Forest Resources Wildlife	Park Manager

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Development			
Install fee collection pipe and baseline site amenities at the parking area	1-5 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager